

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 STR-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6625

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT EXPORTS TO US

REF: STATE 053119

1. PREVIOUS ESTIMATE OF 23 MILLION POUNDS FOR EXPORT IN 1975 MADE AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. WOULD SEEK VR'S. THUS FAR WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT EXPORTS WOULD BE ACCELERATED IN ORDER TO FULFILL EXPORT QUOTAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED BY GOM. IN FACT, EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY DROPPED TO ZERO. THUS, WE BELIEVE 23 MILLION ESTIMATE REALISTIC WHETHER OR NOT VR'S ARE ACTUALLY IMPOSED.

2. DURING RECENT MEETING WITH SUBSECRETARY, AGATT MENTIONED CURRENT PROJECTED BEEF EXPORTS OF SOME 10,000 METRIC TONS AND HE CONCURRED THAT THIS APPEARED REASONABLE AT PRESENT TIME. ALSO, INDICATED THERE WAS NO REASON TO STEP UP BEEF EXPORTS AS LONG AS PRICES IN MEXICO EXCEED U.S. LEVEL.

3. TWO FACTORS LIKELY TO HAVE GREATEST BEARING ON BEEF EXPORTS DURING REMAINDER OF YEAR ARE RELATIVE PRICES AND WEATHER. PRIVATE EXPORTER HAS INDICATED THAT IF U.S. PRICE FOR IMPORTED BONELESS BEEF REACHED 70 CENTS U.S. PER POUND THEN EXPORTS WOULD BE REVIVED TO ANNUAL RATE OF 60 MILLION POUNDS. ALSO, IF DROUGHT OCCURS ACCELERATED SUPPLIES ON THE DOMESTIC MARKET WOULD LIKELY DRIVE MEXICAN PRICES DOWN TO U.S.

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LEVELS OR BELOW. IN ABSENCE OF ANY TURNAROUND IN MARKET CONDITIONS

OR ADVERSE WEATHER HERE, OUR ESTIMATE OF 23 MILLION POUNDS
COULDNEVEN TURN OUT ON HIGH SIDE.
JOVA

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